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has been significant. Doubtless, he will realize his expressed hope that "this volume may have some effect upon the younger members of the legal profession in stimulating them . . . to a more active performance of the duties of citizenship". (p. v.)

WALTER P. ARMSTRONG

THE FRENCH LAW OF WILLS, PROBATE, ADMINISTRATION AND DEATH DUTIES. Second Edition. BY PIERRE PELLERIN. London: STEVENS & SONS LTD. 1920. Pp. 90.

Mr. Pierre Pellerin has given in this booklet of ninety pages an admirable resumé in the English language of the French Law of probate, administration and taxes incident thereto. It is always difficult to make foreign law intelligible in translation, as civil law terms find no real equivalent in the common law. Mr. Pellerin is evidently well aware of this, and has avoided, where possible, the use of purely technical and intranslatable legal terms. He has given a good resumé of the fundamental difference between English and French law in reference to succession, which difference is, of course, incident to the different historic development in England and on the Continent, and especially due to the very different role assigned to the family unit by the civil law. The rules of descent, the formalities to be complied with for the making of wills and for the devolution of successions, and the acceptance of successions after examination into the liabilities involved, are clearly set forth.

The rates of taxes on legacies and some other details herein set forth naturally change with some frequency, and some of the items set forth in the tables are probably not up to date at the present moment. It would, therefore, be necessary to examine the French statutes since the date of publication in order to be sure regarding the prevailing rates of tax.

The rules of private international law applicable, and especially the very difficult matter of the theory of the *renvoi*, are succinctly set forth and a few leading authorities cited.

This little book gives a good bird's-eye-view of the general French law of succession. It is lucid and very compact, but, like all such works, it cannot treat with any adequacy of the very difficult situations arising, especially in regard to conflict of laws; and its main utility must be to the student who wishes to have some very general view of the French law on the subject of successions for purposes of comparison with the common and usual statutory law prevailing in the United States.

FREDERIC R. COUDERT

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BULLETINS. Compiled and Published by the LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU. Springfield, Ill. 1920. pp. xxxiii, 1224.

This volume contains a series of bulletins prepared by the Illinois Legislative Reference Bureau for the use of delegates to the 1920 Constitutional Convention in that state. The pamphlets constitute an excellent illustration of the value to the legislator of legislative reference work. Moreover, with a general table of contents and index they afford to the student of our state constitutional law a useful source of material and suggestion. Our state constitutions deal principally with the organization, powers and jurisdiction of the three great branches of government,—legislative, judicial and executive. As might be expected, therefore, the greater part of this volume is devoted to a statement of the existing organization and functions of the legislature, the courts, and the executive departments, with a brief review of the judicial